

Message Text

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14

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 COME-00 OMB-01 T-03

AID-20 TRSE-00 OEP-01 RSR-01 /157 W
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R 210600 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1561

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1829

DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN SELF- CONGRATULATIONS ON ASSUMING CONTROL OF
OIL OPERATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 1700

SUMMARY: IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA ARE ENGAGED IN HEAVY
CAMPAIGN OF SELF CONGRATULATIONS OVER PROSPECTIVE ASSUMPTION
ON MARCH 21 OF MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF OIL BUSINESS IN
IRAN. EVENT IS BEING TREATED AS IRANIAN VICTORY OVER CONSORTIUM
AND AS GIFT BY SHAH TO IRANIAN PEOPLE AS IRANIAN NEW YEAR
(NOW RUZ) BEGINS. CAMPAIGN SEEMS WELL- DESIGNED TO PROMOTE
SENSE OF COHESIVE NATIONAL FEELING WITHIN IRAN. OTHER SIDE
OF COIN IS, OF COURSE, THAT IRANIAN CROWING MIGHT CREATE PRESSURE
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AMONG ARAB OIL PRODUCERS FOR FURTHER REVISION OF THEIR ARRANGEMENTS WITH OIL COMPANIES. AT THIS POINT, APPEARS TO BE GOOD CHANCE THAT IRANIAN CAMPAIGN WILL SUBSIDE AFTER MARCH 21
END SUMMARY.

1. IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA HAVE BEEN GOING ALL- OUT LAST FEW DAYS IN ORGY OF SELF- CONGRATULATIONS OVER IRAN' S PROSPECTIVE FULL TAKEOVER OF OIL BUSINESS EFFECTIVE MARCH 21. CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN NOTABLE IN ALL NEWSPAPERS BUT PARTICULARLY SO IN PERSIAN LANGUAGE PRESS WHICH HAS BEEN FILLED WITH LENGTHY AND REPETITIVE ARTICLES PRAISING SHAH AND GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT IS PORTRAYED AS GREAT IRANIAN VICTORY OVER CONSORTIUM IN LATEST NEGOTIATIONS. WHAT THE LATE PRIME MINISTER MOHAMMAD MOSSADEQ STARTED IN NATIONALIZING PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN IRAN IS BEING PLAYED HERE AS HAVING BEEN COMPLETED BY THE SHAH.

2. IRANIAN " VICTORY" CAMPAIGN IS VIEWED WITH SOME CONCERN BY WESTERN OIL MEN HERE WHO FEAR THAT CELEBRATIONS COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE EFFECT OF PROVOKING FURTHER DEMANDS BY SAUDI ARABIAN PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI AND ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR A REVISION OF THEIR LATEST ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE WESTERN OIL COMPANIES. BASIS OF NEW ARAB DEMANDS MIGHT BE CLAIM THAT IRANIAN ARE GETTING BETTER DEAL THAN ARABS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM TELLS US HE PLANS POINT OUT TO ALAM (I. E. THE SHAH) DANGERS OF OVERPLAYING EXTENT OF IRANIAN " VICTORY".

3. SHAH' S " VICTORY" HAS STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD AND IS UNDOUBTEDLY WIDELY HAILED IN IRAN. AS RESULT SHAH HAS REGISTERED MAJOR SUCCESS DOMESTICALLY AND AT LEAST WITHIN IRAN CAN CLAIM THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN UPSTAGED BY OTHER OIL- PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HOPEFULLY CAMPAIGN WILL ABATE BEFORE IT DOES TOO MUCH DAMAGE INTERNATIONALLY. IRANIAN NEWSPAPERS WILL NOT APPEAR AT ALL ON MARCH 21 AND 22 AND THERE APPEARS TO BE GOOD CHANCE THAT CAMPAIGN OF CONGRATULATIONS WILL HAVE SUBSIDED WHEN NEWSPAPERS RESUME PUBLISHING MARCH 23. MOREOVER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOI HAS AVOIDED PLAYING UP VICTORY THEME IN ITS FOREIGN BROADCASTS, INCLUDING BROADCASTS IN ARABIC LANGUAGE. THUS, AS SITUATION LOOKS AT THIS JUNCTURE, GOI EGO TRIP HAS HELPED IT INTERNALLY WITH IRANIAN PEOPLE BUT HOPEFULLY WILL NOT CREATE UNMANAGEABLE PROBLEMS WITH THE ARABS.
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